

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: KIM, Min-won

SERIAL NO.: 10/579,365

ART UNIT: 4153

FILED: May 15, 2006

EXAMINER: Mellon, D. C.

TITLE: FLUID FLOW INTERRUPTION MEANS FOR FILTER OF WATER PURIFIER

Amendment A: REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and new Claims 3 and 4 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of more clearly distinguishing the present invention from the prior art and also for the purpose of placing the claim language into a more proper U.S. format.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Hunter patent. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hunter patent in view of the Nam publication. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The claims were also objected to because of minor informalities. Figure 1 was objected to as failing to include the legend "Prior Art".

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant has revised previous independent Claim 1 and dependent Claim 2 in the form of new independent Claim 3 and dependent Claim 4. These new claims express the original limitations in a more proper U.S. format, including proper antecedent bases and proper structural interrelationships throughout. Any indefinite terminology found in the

original claim language has been corrected herein.

In particular, new independent Claim 3 specifically recites that the opening and closing body has a gradually decreasing diameter with "an O-ring fitted therearound adjacent one end thereof". It is further indicated that this "O-ring" is movable so as to close the guide passage so as to interrupt the flow of fluid therethrough. It is also recited that the guide passage has "a hollow cylindrical protuberance formed at one end thereof". It is indicated that this hollow cylindrical protuberance has an inner diameter greater than an outer diameter of the fluid guide rod. The elastic spring is indicated as having "another end fitted around the hollow cylindrical protuberance". Applicant respectfully contends that these features are neither shown nor suggested by the prior art Hunter patent.

Relative to the Examiner's analysis, the O-ring was referenced as pertaining to item 162 of the seal washer in the Hunter patent. The specifically-referenced paragraph is found in column 6, lines 35 - 48 as follows:

With conduit assembly 130 in place, the seals established by O-ring 142 and seal washer 162 are sufficiently tight to prevent leakage therearound, while yet allowing canister 66 and cap 68 to be swung around axis 164 of conduit 132. That permits canister 66 to have a vertical orientation even though input port 70 and output port 72 may need to be canted away from the vertical in order to accommodate connection into a water line which runs in other than a vertical direction. Were canister 66 to be positioned with other than vertical orientation, water retained within canister 66 when the water delivery is turned off, to enable removing the canister from cap 68 in order to change cartridge 118, would be likely to spill onto the floor of cabinet 52.

As can be seen, this fails to disclose the "O-ring as fitted around the gradually decreasing diameter of the opening and closing body". It also fails to disclose the limitation that the O-ring is movable

"so as to close said guide passage so as to interrupt a fluid therethrough". On this basis, Applicant respectfully contends that this element of independent Claim 3 is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art Hunter patent and, as such, cannot be anticipated by such a patent.

With reference to the hollow cylindrical protuberance, the Examiner has stated that this pertains to the aperture 190 in the center of head 180. Applicant notes that the relevant passage from the Hunter patent is found in column 7, lines 12 - 19 as follows:

An aperture 190 in the center of head 180 is aligned with the hole in the washer 162 on axis 164 upon which post 174 also is aligned. Formed in the wall of bore 170 near its inner end is an opening 192 which leads to an exit port 194 that communicates into the space surrounding cartridge 118. Another opening 196 in the wall of bore 170 near seal washer 162 leads into tube 119.

This is in contrast to the limitation pertaining to the hollow cylindrical protuberance as found in independent Claim 3. In particular, independent Claim 3 recites that the guide passage has the hollow cylindrical protuberance formed at one end thereof. It is further indicated that the hollow cylindrical protuberance has an inner diameter greater than an outer diameter of the fluid guide rod. Additionally, and furthermore, the elastic spring has an end fitted around this hollow cylindrical protuberance. As such, this limitation found in independent Claim 3 is not shown nor suggested by the prior art hunter patent and, as such, the limitations of independent Claim 3 cannot be anticipated by this prior art patent.

Applicant has revised Figure 1 herein so as to include the legend "Prior Art" in association with Figure 1.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claim 3 is now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon Claim 3

should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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